

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method for treating diabetes or a complication thereof comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of one of the following compounds ~~A method according to Claim 1, wherein one of the following compounds are administered~~

- 2-benzylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-phenylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-carboxymethylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-cyclohexylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- ethyl 2-phenylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-cyclohexylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-benzylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- 2-phenylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;

- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-cyclohexylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-benzylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-phenylthio-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- ~~2-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;~~
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid; or
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;

or a geometrical or optical isomer thereof,

or a tautomeric form thereof;

or a solvate  $[[\cdot]]$  or hydrate thereof,

or a  $[[\cdot]]$  salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base, ~~or a pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof.~~

17-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 16 4, wherein the risk of hypoglycaemia is reduced.

28. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 16, wherein ~~4,~~ wherein non-insulin-dependent diabetes or a complication  $[[\cdot]]$  thereof is treated.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 16 3, wherein the compound administered is capable of the inhibition of kynurenine 3-hydroxylase.

31. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 16 3, wherein the compound administered is capable of the inhibition of kynurenine 3-hydroxylase in an *in vitro* test.

32. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 16 4, wherein

diabetes or a complication thereof is treated.

33. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 16 3, wherein diabetes or a complication of diabetes thereof is treated.

34. (New) A compound, which is

- 2-benzylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-phenylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-carboxymethylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-cyclohexylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- ethyl 2-phenylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-cyclohexylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-benzylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- 2-phenylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-cyclohexylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-benzylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-phenylthio-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;

- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid; or
  - 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- or a geometrical or optical isomer thereof,  
 or a tautomeric form thereof;  
 or a solvate or hydrate thereof,  
 or a salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base,  
 or a pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof.

35. (New) A method according to claim 16, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of one of the following compounds

- 2-benzylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-phenylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-carboxymethylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-cyclohexylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- ethyl 2-phenylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-cyclohexylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-benzylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- 2-phenylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;

- 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - 2-cyclohexylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - 2-benzylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - 2-phenylthio-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid; or
  - 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- or a salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

36. (New) A method according to claim 34, wherein the risk of hypoglycaemia is reduced.

37. (New) A method according to claim 34, wherein non-insulin-dependent diabetes or a complication thereof is treated.

38. (New) A method according to claim 34, wherein diabetes is treated.

39. (New) A method according to claim 34, wherein a complication of diabetes is treated.

40. (New) A method for treating diabetes or a complication thereof comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a prodrug of one of the following compounds

- 2-benzylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;

- 2-phenylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-carboxymethylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-cyclohexylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- ethyl 2-phenylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-cyclohexylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-benzylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- 2-phenylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-cyclohexylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-benzylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-phenylthio-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid; or
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid.

41. (New) A method according to claim 39, wherein the prodrug contains a leaving group attached to an oxygen atom which upon the cleaving of the leaving group forms an OH group to yield one of the following compounds

- 2-benzylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;

- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-phenylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-carboxymethylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-cyclohexylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- ethyl 2-phenylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-cyclohexylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-benzylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- 2-phenylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-cyclohexylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-benzylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-phenylthio-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid; or
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid.

42. (New) A method according to claim 40, wherein the leaving group is a sugar residue.

43. (New) A method according to claim 40, wherein the leaving

group is sucrose.

44. (New) A method according to claim 34, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of one of the following compounds

- 2-benzylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - 2-phenylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - ethyl 2-phenylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
  - ethyl 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
  - ethyl 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
  - ethyl 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
  - ethyl 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
  - ethyl 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
  - ethyl 2-benzylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
  - 2-phenylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - 2-benzylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - 2-phenylthio-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid; or
  - 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- or a salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.



45. (New) A method according to claim 34, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of one of the following compounds

- 2-carboxymethylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- or a salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

46. (New) A method according to claim 34, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of one of the following compounds

- 2-cyclohexylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
  - ethyl 2-cyclohexylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate; or
  - 2-cyclohexylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- or a salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.